The Miracle Missions of California

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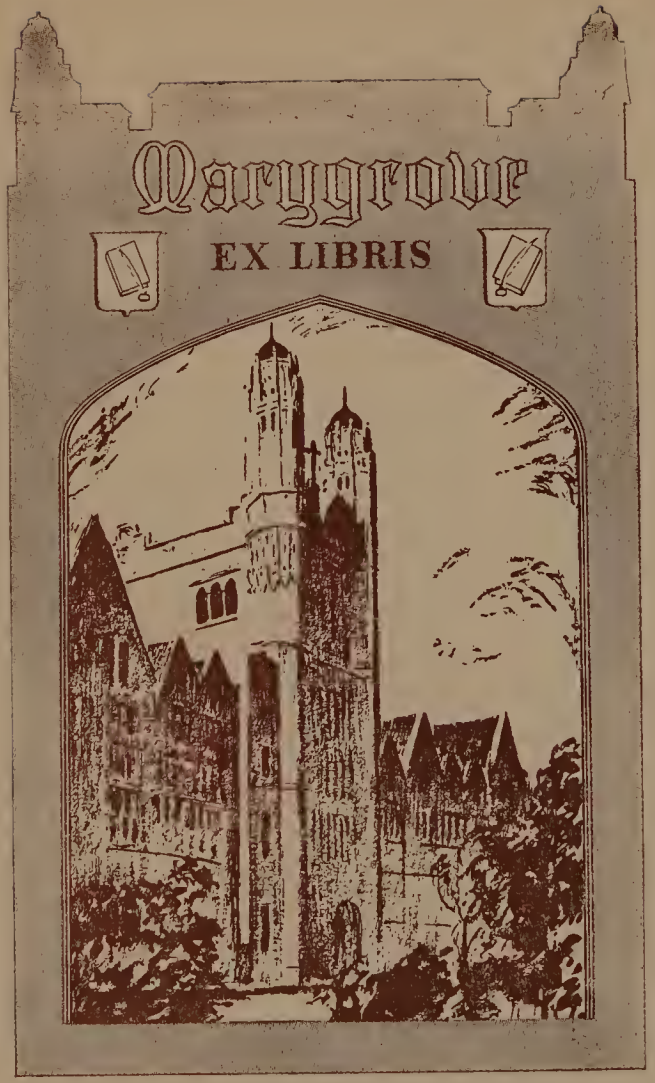
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The Miracle Missions

COMPILED BY

VERNON J. SELFRIDGE

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MONROE, MICHIGAN
FAITH and DUTY
Sisters Servants of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary
1845

Gift
JUN 3 '47

Gratias

In compiling this little volume the Author is indebted to the Right Rev. Bishop Thomas J. Conaty; Judge Geo. H. Hutton; Hon. John Steven McGroarty, Author of The Mission Play, "California, Its History and Romance," and especially to Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Buckley.

A WORD

In producing this booklet the Author has endeavored to present, briefly, a history of the famous California Missions, dating from the era of their greatest benedictions to the present. Romantic in the extreme, they mark the first great epoch in the history of our country.

To Mr. H. C. Ford, artist, we attribute much of the value of this book. Living at the time the Missions were in their glory he painted them with unusual accurateness. Most of the reproductions herein were from his originals.

To America these old Missions are what the ancient Cathedrals are to Europe. Intensely interesting, they have come to be remarkable studies in architecture and examples of true Christian living.

Their antiquity is most interesting, and every student of history should avail himself of the privilege of visiting these examples of classical architecture while they are still in existence.

Unlike the ancient Cathedrals of Europe, which are being annihilated by shot and shell today, these old Missions are being continually assaulted by the resistless force of the elements and are rapidly returning to the dust from whence they came.

The Landmarks Club of California is doing much toward preserving these Missions, and its request for co-operation in perpetuating what is left of these structures, should meet with hearty approval and assistance.

Fr. Junipero Serra

"The Very Rev. Fr. Junipero Serra, D. D., Priest of all the Missions, born in Mallora (Spain), died here" (San Carlos, California), "on the 28th of August, 1784, at the age of 71 years, and is buried in the Sanctuary fronting the altar of our Lady of Seven Dolors on the Gospel side."

"Taken from the records of the Church.

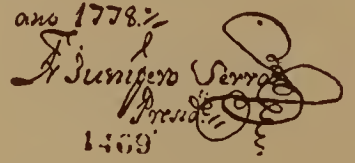
"Angelo D. Caranova, P. P. of Monterey."

Copied from tablet San Carlos Mission, August 9th, 1881.

(Signed), H. C. FORD.

The last words attributed to this wonderful man of God are, "I shall use my influence with God on behalf of the California Missions."

We produce here Fr. Serra's Signature.



ORIGIN

Christian Missions began, as the majority of us know, with the advent of Christianity, and were the result of Christ's command to his Apostles, "Go ye unto the whole world, and teach all nations, and teach them to observe whatsoever I have told you." After the first missionaries passed away, the Church, founded by the Apostles, continued the work of gathering tribes and nations into the fold of Christ.

Her messengers have, at all times, made their way to the most distant parts of the earth, in order to establish missionary stations, where all might learn the truths of salvation.

The workers were divided into religious orders, namely Franciscans, Dominicans, Augustinians and Jesuits, the Franciscans being the first in the field.

The Mission history of Alta California began in Old Mexico and Lower California. Juan Rodrigues Cabrillo started from Novidad in the State of Sinaloa, western Mexico, in 1592, just one hundred years after Columbus set foot on America, and sailing up the coast, entered the bay of San Diego, where the city of that name now stands. He was the first European to set foot upon California soil. He then sailed farther up the coast, and into the bay of San Pedro, which he called the "Bay of Smoke."

Baja (Lower) California, which was of very little commercial value, was at this time under rule of the Jesuits and Dominicans. By the order of "His Catholic Majesty," Carlos III, the Jesuits were removed and the Dominicans were given control.

The Franciscans were given Alta California for their territory, and later, under Father Junipero Serra, they founded the first Mission in California.

The old road, starting from the first Mission at San Diego and connecting it with the other twenty Missions, going through the pueblos and presidios, was called "*El Camino Real,*" meaning "The King's Highway."

For the most part, El Camino Real has been used as a county road from San Diego to Los Angeles and to San Francisco, but the State of California is now spending some twenty million dollars to make it in fact what its name implies—"The King's Highway."

Picturesque guide-posts bear facsimiles of the old Mission bells, witnesses of the Father Missionary's struggles, and heralds of love and Christianity.

It is very hard for us to realize how close were the ties between the Fathers and their Indian children. The Mission Indians were the devoted slaves of the Missionaries, and only began to lose respect for their masters when a false civilization overtook them.

In the eighteenth century, the Padres, less than fifty in all, had over thirteen thousand Indians under their surveillance. Out of these idolaters and savages the Fathers made useful men—saddle-makers, tailors, silversmiths, candle-makers, etc. This was the time of greatest prosperity for the California Missions.

The Missions contributed much to the development of the country districts, the presidios and the pueblos deriving a minor benefit.

It was only after the secularization of the Missions, and the coming of the hated Americans, that the towns grew and prospered.

The Missions were the taverns for the travelers, where everyone was made welcome and given the best that the Church afforded, as long as he wished to tarry. He was also provided with private rooms and guest gardens, while the other gardens in the inner sanctuary were accessible to the Padres only.

Upon arrival at the Mission a visitor was met by two Indians, one to take his horse, while the other acted as an escort to conduct him to his room. It must have been a great relief to the toilers among the heathen, to have occasional visitors from the outside world; it livened the atmosphere that surrounded them in their daily labor of service and love.

But those happy times have passed when no thought was given further than the rising and the setting of the sun, and yet every hour in the light of day and the dark of night meant as much to the Padres as a string of beads to the monger. It was a hard-fought battle for the Fathers, this battle of Christianity on the shores of the New Continent, and there now remains only that picturesque "Mirage of the Missions," which made glad the hearts of the Fathers.

In 1838, when the order came to secularize the Missions, from Echeandia, the governor, who opposed them, it was a great blow to the Padres. Learning that the

churches and homes, as well as their cattle and other possessions, were to be taken from them, they immediately began to convert the latter into money.

The surplus wealth of the immensely rich Missions, during their palmy days, was sent to Mexico and Spain.

After the land was laid waste, the Padres forced to return to Mexico left their converts to scatter in towns and villages or to drift back to their native habits.

The Missions had filled a romantic place in the history of California.

In viewing the Missions of today, most of which are in a depleted condition, we see buildings erected in the eighteenth century with nothing but Indian labor, but of a style all their own. Great architectural results grew from the old Missions. Some of the finest residences of California were patterned after their architecture. The first Mission buildings were usually one story, with flat roof of rafters, covered with straw, rushes and tiles, but these soon gave way to larger, more substantial buildings of adobe, with cross and bell tower.

In viewing the photographs of the Missions, on the following pages, it can be seen that one or two of the buildings might have been patterned after similar designs, but as a rule each one was different from the other. In studying these Missions, we must take into consideration the inexperienced labor that was employed under the supervision of the patient Padres, and, most of all, the hostile conditions that prevailed during their erection.

Mission San Diego de Alcala

It must have been a glorious sight when Father Junipero Serra, on the sixteenth day of July, 1769, with his little band of sailors and attendants, set up the cross on a rude hut overlooking the bay of San Diego, and celebrated mass in honor of the founding of the first Mission in Alta California. The curious Indians watched the ceremony intently. A bell was hung in a tree, and with the sound of muskets, as notes of an organ, the services were held that dedicated Alta California to God and the King.

The Indians offered no resistance until late in the year, when they showed signs of insurrection, killing a servant of Father Serra, after which they were soon calmed by the patient monks.

In the latter part of the following year the Mission was about to be abandoned on account of lack of food and supplies, but on the very day set for forsaking the woodland Church, while Father Serra knelt in fervent prayer, a boat was discerned approaching the harbor, and, as if by a miracle, four days later the San Antonio from La Paz entered port, which meant the establishment of the Franciscans in California. These incidents took place in what is now "Old Town," San Diego.

The partial ruins of the Mission are about six miles from the City, beside a more modern building, an industrial school for Indian girls. In front of the Mission still stand the two palms that witnessed the trials and glories of the work of the Fathers.

San Diego
H.C. Ford '84

Mission San Carlos de Borromeo

Twenty-six miles from San Francisco, in the "Valley of Carmelo," is situated the Mission San Carlos, the most celebrated and distinguished of the twenty-one Missions. It was the second Mission founded, being dedicated June 3, 1770, by Father Junipero Serra. The Church was first built as the official residence of the Presidente, and in the restoration of the original architecture, which has been carefully preserved, the greatest changes were the modern shingles to replace the crumbling tile roof.

One strange feature of this Mission is the location selected for the buildings, great care had been taken to have a commanding situation for all the others.

The Church building is of stone, and aside from the mentioned changes, carries an air of mission architecture in its lines. An unique feature of the interior is the ancient stone staircase, partially in ruins, that leads up to the belfry. The tower is in perfect condition, and in it hangs the antiquated bell which calls to service. May it ring with rapture and dignity in future years, o'er the graves of the Masters, that they may know their work is still carried on.

Mission San Antonio de Padua

The Mission San Antonio, dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua, July 14, 1771, was founded by Father Serra. It is located about three hundred and sixteen miles from Los Angeles, and thirty-one miles north of the Mission San Miguel.

San Antonio de Padua stands almost on the brink of Mission Creek, a branch of the San Antonio river. There was at one time a dam across the river, constructed under the supervision of the Padres. It is now reduced to sand. This Mission was once known to have rivaled the Missions San Juan Capistrano, San Luis Rey and Santa Barbara. The buildings are magnificent and artistic in their ruins. The long cloisters, with their broken bits of wall and tile roof, are of grandeur architecture. The facade of San Antonio resembles that of San Diego in pattern only, while that of San Antonio, with its tall, graceful arches, adds a superiority and individuality to its beauty.

As the Mission lies far from the beaten trail, the visitor is compelled to take a stage ride, which, however, affords glorious scenery en route. It is a well-paid trip indeed. In reality you may see the story of the lonely Mission better than the writer can tell it.

H. L. Ford &s
San Antonio de Padua

Mission San Gabriel Arcangel

Mission San Gabriel Arcangel was founded just two months after the dedication of Mission San Antonio, on the eighth day of September, 1771, by Fathers Somera and Cambon. It is located about ten miles from Los Angeles, in the quiet village of San Gabriel, which is inhabited, for the most part, by people of Spanish descent, there being a number of beautiful country mansions, set back from the dusty highway.

The "Miracle of the wonderful cross at Monterey" had here its duplicate in the picture of the "Virgin Mary."

While a party of locators were making surveys here, many Indians came, led by two chiefs, and with hostile demonstrations attempted to stop the proceedings. Whereupon a padre displayed to their gaze a picture of the "Virgin" painted upon a banner. The Indians threw down their arrows and drew near, bringing gifts, and the chieftains laid necklaces at the feet of the padres, in token of submission to the beautiful "Queen of Heaven."

Mission San Gabriel is in a very good state of preservation; services being held regularly. The Mission carries an individuality of architecture. The over-hanging branches of an old pepper tree partially cover the stone stairway that leads to the choir loft, adding a picturesque effect.

The Mission itself is well worth a visit, and an added attraction is that opposite this Mission is located the playhouse of the famous "Mission Play," which was written and produced by John Steven McGroarty, after years of labor in unravelling the history of the first days of California.

Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa

Two hundred and thirty miles from Los Angeles, on a site selected by Father Junipero Serra, is situated the Mission San Luis Obispo, founded September 1, 1772, by Father Serra. It was dedicated to Saint Luis, Bishop of Toulouse.

Mission San Luis Obispo is in remarkable contrast to La Purisima and Santa Ynez, although there is very little left of the original Mission buildings, the floor plan and the worn bits of wall being the only exceptions.

A marked characteristic of San Luis Obispo is the construction of its corridor. The front arcade is entirely absent; plain round columns with a square base give support to the roof beams. A shingled roof covers the glorious old Mission, and the adobe walls are covered with painted wood. The restoration is far from the original.

The beautiful gardens of the Mission, although much neglected, still remain.

The interior of the Church has not been changed, a most interesting feature being the statue of the patron, Saint Luis.

In 1842 Governor Alvarado ordered the Mission lands divided among the neophytes. The Mission was then turned into a pueblo.

One year later (1843) it was sold to Scott, Wilson & Company for $510.00. However, Governor Mason ordered the property returned to the Catholic Church.

It was at this Mission that the first red mission tiles were made.

San Luis Obispo

Mission San Francisco d'Assisi

In the southern part of the city of San Francisco is located the Mission San Francisco de Asis, founded October 9, 1776, by Fathers Palou and Cambon. This Mission is sometimes confused with and frequently referred to as the Mission Dolores, which only defines the Mission upon the Delores, a stream that has since dried up, leaving no visible traces of its former bed, which is only marked by the willows that absorb the little moisture that remains.

This once beautiful Mission, that aided so much in the settlement of the Golden West, has lost its atmosphere of the Spanish days. The Church building is all that remains. It was patterned from the type of the San Miguel Mission and has in front a decorated buttress or pilaster. The buildings themselves have been only slightly altered, but the most noticeable change is in their environment, effected by the huge unnatural skyscrapers that cast their shadows over the precious link that joins the civilization of the east with the glories of the romantic west.

The interior of the chapel remains almost the same as originally, save for the few vacant niches that have lost their images. The paintings that adorn the wall are some of the original canvasses, brought from Spain and Mexico. In the sanctuary is the grave of Father Carroll, who sleeps eternally with his former companions in the graveyard that adjoins the chapel, neglected and unguarded, save for the stately willows that weep and sigh over their heads.

LANGDON SMITH
SAN FRANCISCO DE ASSISI - DOLORES MISSION

Mission San Juan Capistrano

San Juan Capistrano, beautiful in its loneliness, is situated on the coast in a little Mexican village of the same name, about fifty-eight miles from Los Angeles, being founded, after a second attempt, November 1, 1776, by Father Serra, the first attempt to found San Juan Capistrano was unsuccessful, the result being only a lonely cross. San Juan Capistrano was very unfortunate, being reduced to a state of ruin by the earthquake of 1812. Its remains impress one as an ancient monastery of the far west. It was one of the most populous of the Missions and of the best architectural construction, built entirely of mortar and stone, and it seems almost incredible that it was constructed by the hands of the Indians, yet it is a provable fact, that in all the Missions the untrained origin lies in the hidden work, traceable in the long stately rows of arches, which expose the lines of their splendid proportions.

The Mission was restored to the Fathers, after the secularization, for a short time only, when all of the land was sold in tracts of from ten to a hundred acres. This land was held in American possession for twenty years, when the buildings and the immediate surroundings of the Mission were given oveer to the Church and the court.

San Juan Capistrano stands like a sentinel over the rolling hills and the green valleys that reach far to the placid ocean.

I beg of you to visit this ancient ruin, as you will be repaid by an impressive view, particularly on a moonlight night, when the imagination clothes the ruined Mission with all the beauty and magnificence of its former days.

Mission Santa Clara d'Assisi

In the city of Santa Clara, forty-eight miles from San Francisco, stands the Mission Church Santa Clara, which is the one remaining building of the Mission, which was founded on the 12th day of January, 1777, by Father Tomas de La Pena. Beside the Chapel is the Jesuit College of Santa Clara. Although the modern building takes away the artistic glow of the Mission, it stands beside the Mission Church in defiance to its secularization. History shows that this is the third church erected upon this site. It was built as late as 1822, in our grandfathers'—yes, even our father's days.

The single belfry and facade were replaced in 1862 by the present towers and facades. The ornamental work and furnishings of the interior are intact, which includes the original holy water fonts, the life-size crucifix and the paintings of Nuestra Senora De Guadalupe. Also there is the very identical background of the altar (reredos), that contains the statues and images. Overhead is the original ceiling, frescoed like the chancel. Most of the paintings are reproductions. There is the statue of St. Francis of Assisi, and also that of St. Anthony of Padua, with the infant Jesus in his arms.

In the right-hand belfry are the three old bells donated by the King of Spain. On account of a crack, one of them was recast in 1864.

In the college library may be seen many ancient relics, including historic paintings and richly carved furniture.

SANTA CLARA MISSION

Mission San Buenaventura

San Buenaventura, founded March 31, 1783, by Father Serra, is the ninth of the Missions on the *"El Camino Real"* and is located almost in the center of the modern town of Ventura, about seventy miles from Los Angeles. In the course of time it became the richest of the Missions; its stone walls withstood the trials of war, which were cast upon it so heavily when the hostile forces of Carrillo and Alvarado met here in 1838. Although San Buenaventura did not fall as soon as her sister Missions, the Chapel walls could not resist the shot and shell which left their marks in scars and seams, but in time these blemishes of battle have been obliverated by Nature.

The facade of the Church, the only building left of the Mission, is similar to that of San Luis Rey, with its tile and stone belfry tower at the left corner. The bells are still suspended and occasionally stir the hearts of the faithful. The roof is restored with shingles, the same as San Fernando and others. The west side has been replastered and toned up with color. Formerly the Church formed the southwest corner, and part of the west side of a square, enclosing a patio, but there is not a vestage of a square now, the stores and business houses coming close to the sacred building, leaving room only on one side for a passage. This is still the only Catholic Church in the city.

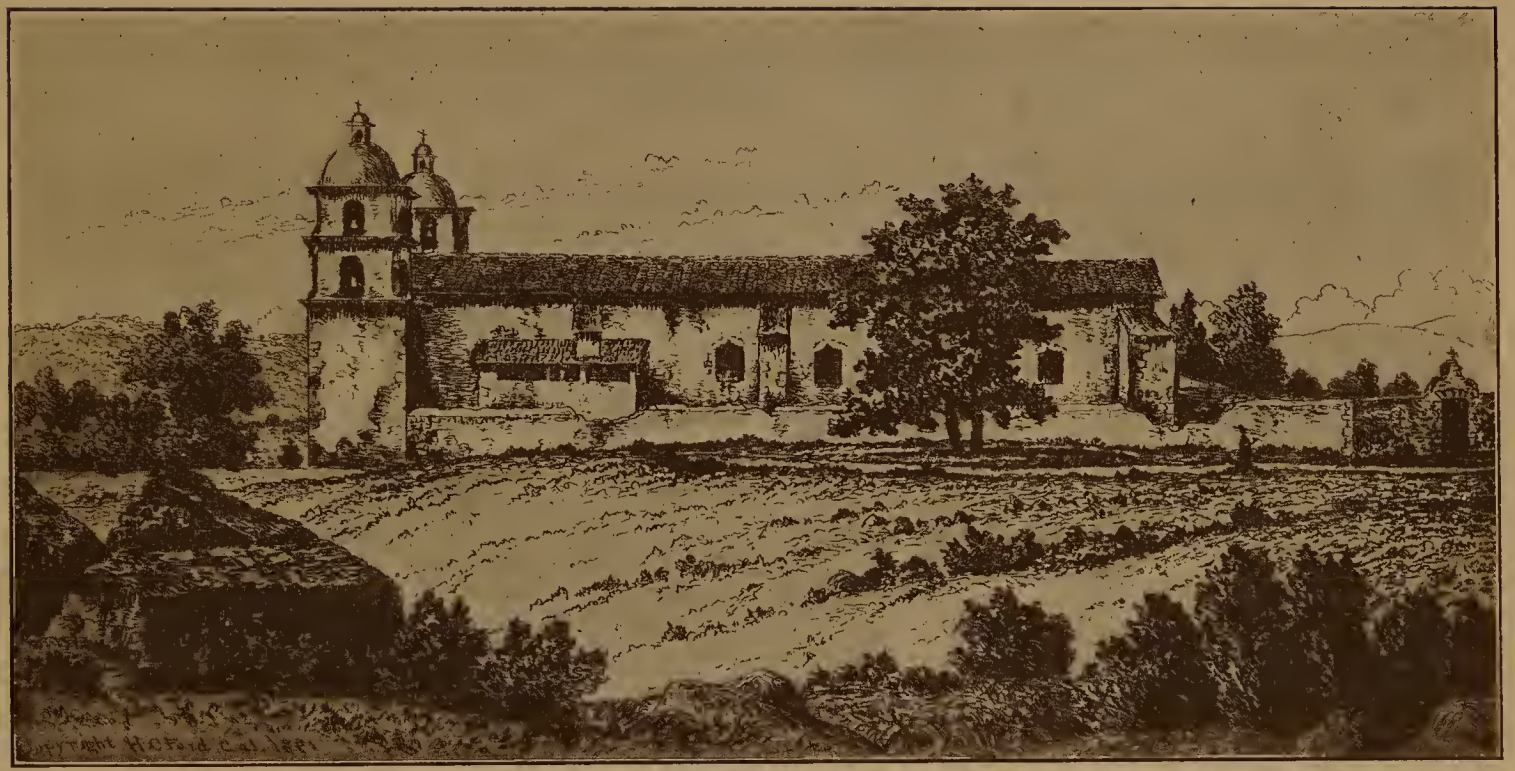
Mission Santa Barbara

One hundred and twelve miles from Los Angeles, in the bend of a beautiful sheltered bay, is situated one of the most interesting Missions of today, because it is the only one that has remained in the hands of the monks—Mission Santa Barbara. It was founded on the 4th day of December, 1786, by Father Fermin Lasuen. Fortunately it stands a good half-mile back from the city of Santa Barbara, and with the distinctive services of fifty years its attitude in this modern life still sustains its past career. Of course everything is gone except the Church and the adjointing buildings, where live the reverened Fathers. The ruins remaining here and there resemble those of San Luis Rey, but, having been more in use, are well preserved and much more solid structures.

The Mission Garden is very interesting for the fact that with only two exceptions no women have ever set foot within it. Upon Princess Louise, wife of the Marquis of Lorne and Mrs. Benjamin Harrison were bestowed this extraordinary favor, but their prominent social position was not taken into consideration.

The Mission is not a parish Church, so consequently no regular service is held, but on such days as Christmas and Easter the Church is filled. What an exquisite sight, with its beautiful and gorgeous chancel! The chanting of the Fathers in the choir gallery seems to reach the very ocean. The enchantment of the whole makes a deep and everlasting impression.

Beside the Church are the graves of the Fathers, unmarked and forgotten.



Mission La Purisima Concepcion

So charmingly christened, and artistically located upon the beautiful daisy-covered banks of the San Ynez river, are the ruins of both the Old and New Purisima. The first was founded December 8, 1787, by Father Lasuen, but was destroyed by an earthquake in 1812. Instead of rebuilding on the old site it was moved farther up the river and on the opposite bank, a more desirable location called Los Berros. However, this one shared a like fate in the revolt of the Indians in 1824. Consequently, the present ruins are those of the third Church of this Mission. Yes, indeed, they are ruins, and dilapidated remnants at that. The roof with the once beautiful red tiles has fallen in. But the portions of the building that stand show the substantial character of the construction.

Statistics show that in 1875 when Domingo Carrillo came to the Mission with his decree of secularization, that Purisima, shorn of her beauty, was valued at but sixty thousand dollars, including all the buildings, lands, furniture, produce and live stock. Who shall tell the tale of Mission Purisima the Beautiful? The wild flowers only—the little daisies—that every spring seem to beckon in mute language to Father Time, to hasten the end.

Nuestra Senora de la Soledad

Mission Soledad is located about thirty-five miles from Mission San Antonio, and is situated near the little town of Soledad. This Mission was founded October 9, 1791, by Father Lasuen. The ruins which are left of "Our Lady of Solitude," stand without a guard in the center of a large barley field, upon a beautiful and commanding site.

Soledad, in its primeval condition, could really not be any more interesting, for in its ruins the tale is told.

The remains of a Church which resembled that of San Miguel, stand beside the ruins of the main building (another case of a fallen roof), all of which, in the gray of the dawn, bring out a version of romance, growing more and more impressive with the passing of the years.

It was at this Mission when, in the wake of secularization, Father Vincent de Sarria, who devotedly remained at his post—though broken down by years and exhausted by hunger, died on the steps of the altar of the Church, from sheer starvation, one Sunday morning as he was about to give blessing over his little band of Christian Indians, who alone were left of all the great throngs that once were wont to assemble there.

LA SOLEDAD
S.A.B.

Mission Santa Cruz

Eighty miles from San Francisco is located all that is left of the depressing Mission Santa Cruz. It is indeed a disappointment, for about all that remains of interest is a memorial cross, which marks the remains of the early Mission.

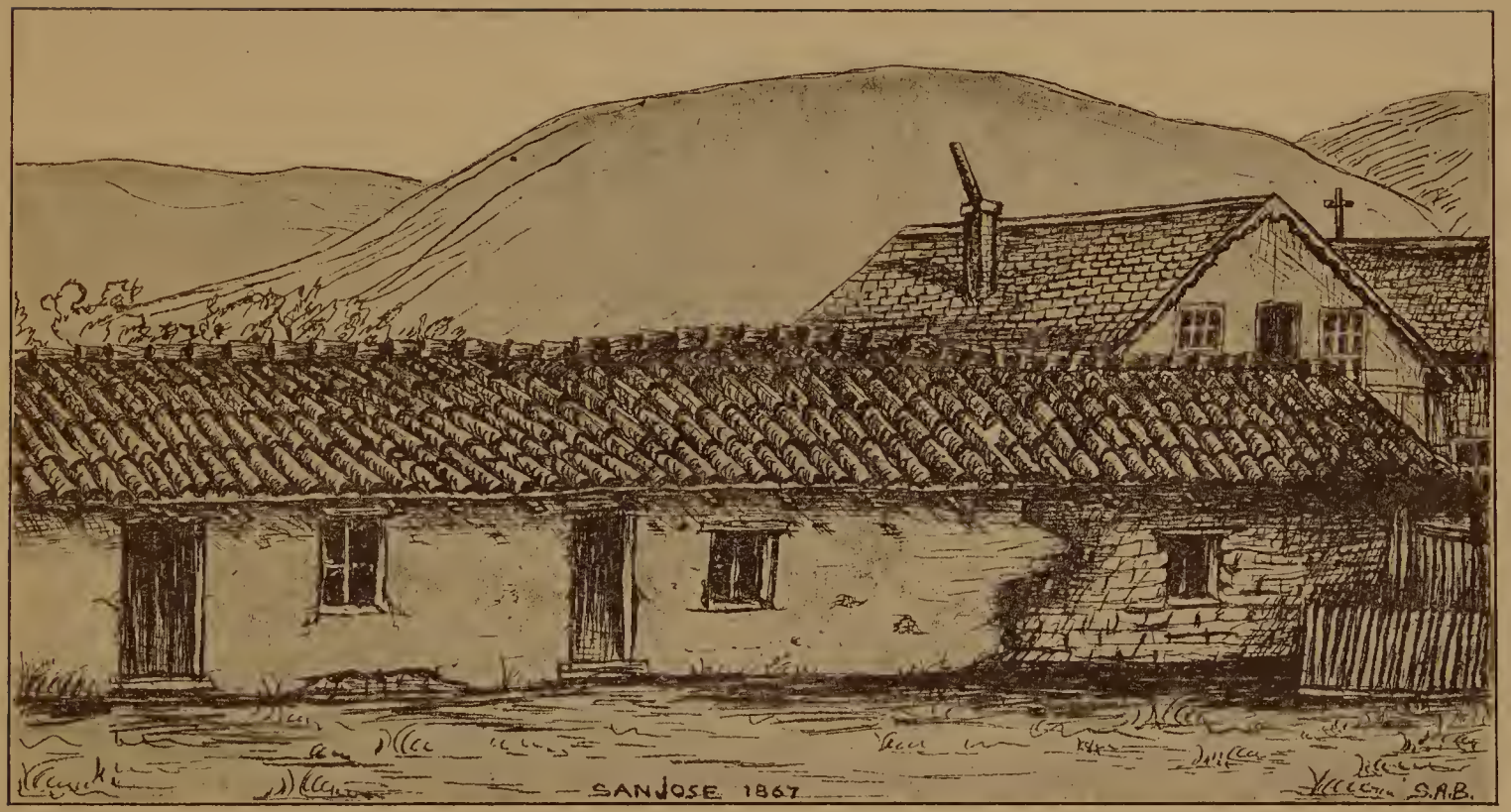
Santa Cruz was the thirteenth Mission, being founded December 25, 1791, by Father Lasuen. It was beautifully situated near the bay of Monterey, having as a background a dense forest, but owing to the penal station of Branciforte, which later became the town of Santa Cruz, the little Mission did not have the flourishing times that it had earned. A portion of a tile-covered shed in the rear of the present Church is all that remains of the Mission itself. In the Church may be seen a few relics of the historic old days. Among them are two of the Mission books, used by the Indians, which would be very hard for one to decipher. What a historical relic, all this would be, if we had acted sooner to make this Mission an enchantment with the rest.

SANTA CRUZ. PAINTED BY L. TROUSSET. SKETCHED BY H.C. FORD.

Mission San Jose Guadalupe

Mission San Jose is located twelve miles from Santa Clara in a locality known among the Indians as Popelortchon, but to the Spaniards as San Benito. This Mission was established June 11, 1797, by Father Lasuen. The name San Jose appeals to a visitor, before seeing the Mission, who expects to be repaid in the highest measure, in turning his eyes upon one of the most charming and pleasing of the twenty-one Missions. It is a complete disappointment, however, if compared with those farther south. Of course some would not care to pass it by, for in the antiquity of the remaining buildings, lie the missing links that never appear in written history.

San Jose cannot boast of having seen the extensive wealth of the richer and more flourishing Missions along the coast, although afforded one of the largest bells used in the Missions, it weighing one thousand pounds. San Jose had at one time a greater number of converts than any other California Mission. But, laying aside this reminiscence, I would not be too extreme in stating that San Jose deserves its share of glory among the Missions. Stand alone it must; although its individuality makes a splendid theme for the sympathetic pen.


SAN JOSE 1867
S.A.B.

Mission San Juan Bautista

This Mission, which was founded June 24, 1797, by Father Lasuen, is located about eighty-seven miles from San Francisco, and is of great interest to a visitor. It is very prominently situated upon the edge of a mesa, overlooking the valley and facing the Plaza. The Mission has a long corridor of seventeen arches, with two square orifices with lintel doors. The roof is partially tiled.

Beside the main building, is the Mission Church, which still remains as it was built. The walls are the original ones; but the roof has been reshingled. A tall spire similar to the one at San Luis Obispo, but more obtrusive, has replaced the dome, which was destroyed in the conflict of 1836. The interior does not show the effects of any modern work, and is plain and simple. The Chapel has three altars, the principal one being dedicated to St. John the Baptist. It is very rich in tone. All of the altars were made and carved from native wood; however, the name of the carver is held a secret by one long ago forgotten, perchance a padre or a Mexican who lived at the Mission. The altar cloths and vestments are very interesting. An old Banel organ built in 1735, and in use in the early days, may be seen here.

The cemetery adjoining the Church is indeed ancient, where sleep, as history tells, over four thousand, three hundred neophytes and Mexicans. And the striking part of it is that not a vestige of an Indian remains.

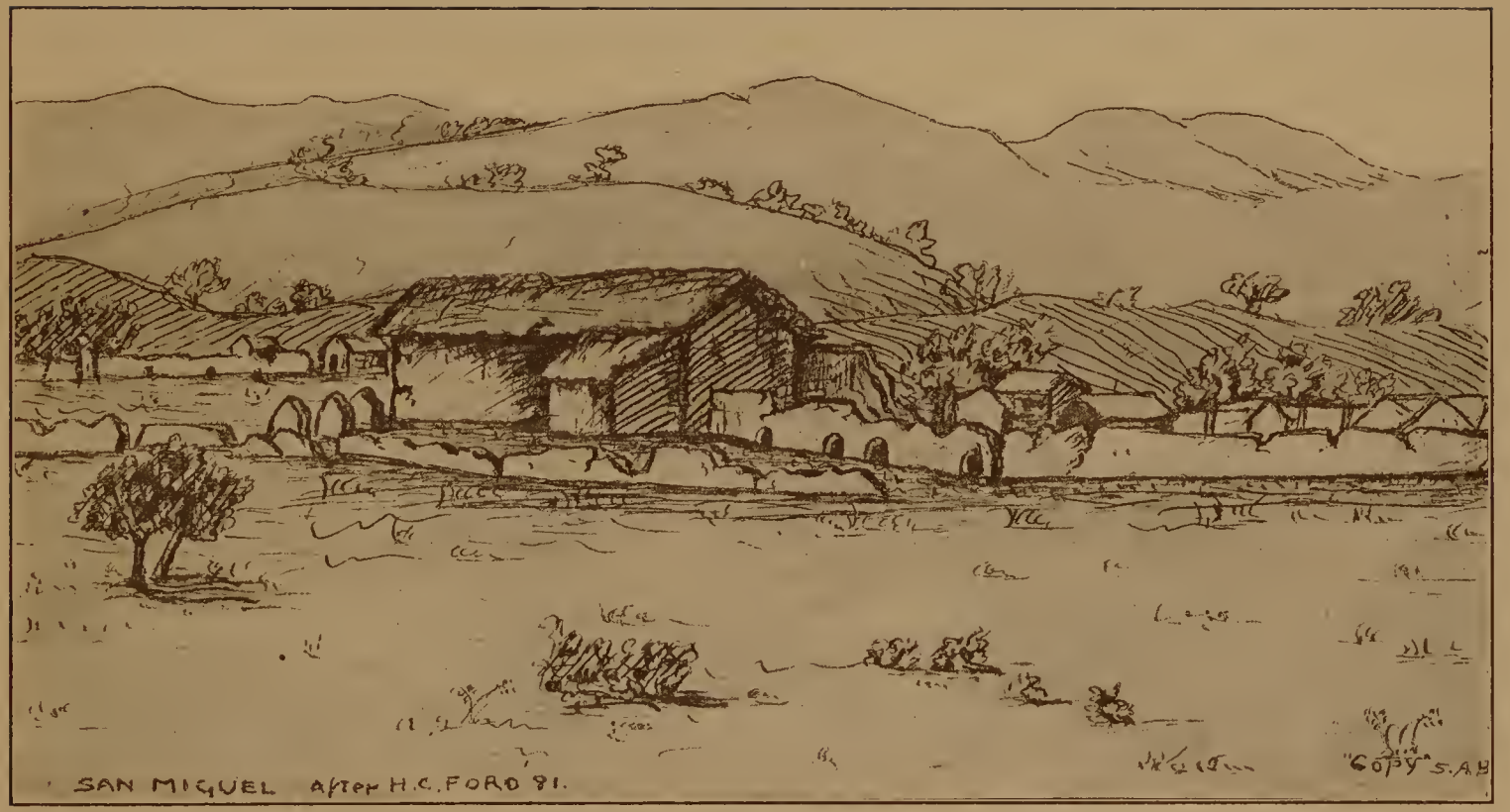
SAN JUAN BAUTISTA (H.C. FORD 81)
"COPY" S.A.B.

Mission San Miguel Arcangel

Two hundred and seventy-three miles from Los Angeles, and about thirty-three miles from San Luis Obispo, is situated the small but pleasing town of San Miguel.

The Mission itself sits back from the river, which it faces, about one-half mile, and is about the only Mission that is not affected by the modern life surrounding it. This Mission was established July 25, 1797, by Father Lasuen. The slightly ruined buildings consist of a Church, with the usual row of arches, being marked with peculiar architecture, different from either Santa Barbara, San Fernando, or San Luis Rey.

The Church is very well preserved, even though it suffered a few minor changes. The interior of the Church has the same decorating done by the Indians, which has never been altered. One interested in antiquity would appreciate this excellent work done by the Indians. The walls are frescoed in stripes of blue to imitate fluted pillars, the floors are of red tile laid in square oblongs, in irregular alternating rows. The Church is still used and has a resident priest attendance. This beautiful western abbey, historical in years, with the impressiveness of its past carrer, is well worth a visit.


SAN MIGUEL after H.C. FORD 91.
COPY S.A.B

Mission San Fernando Rey de Espana

In the rich fertile valley of the San Fernando, on El Camino Real, between San Buenaventura and San Gabriel, is situated the tranquil Mission San Fernando Rey. This Mission was founded September 8, 1797, by Father Lasuen. It is located about twenty-two miles from Los Angeles. This Mission has not a city to share its glory of romance, as have some of the other Missions, but only a country town, for the most part one long street, bordered on either side by store buildings. It is about one mile from the depot of San Fernando. The whole, which takes up between eight and ten acres of ground, is still picturesque to an extreme degree. The usual arched corridor runs the entire length of the building. The Mission, at a distance, brings out a line of dignity, which cannot be equaled, and in its state of decay will never cease to stand as a monument to this country's indifference. The more substantial part of the Mission has in later years been used as a stable and a storage for hay. In front stands the picturesque fountain and basin.

One hundred yards back of the Mission is situated the Church, a tall rectangular building, which has lately been re-roofed by the Land Marks Club.

It was near this Mission that gold was first discovered in '49, and a few prospect holes still dot the hillside.

San Fernando
H C Ford '83

Mission San Luis Rey de Francia

Associated with the memory of Padre Peyri, and at a distance of eighty-five miles from Los Angeles, stand the remains of one of the latest, and the most beautiful of all the Missions, San Luis Rey. It was established June 13, 1798, by Father Lasuen. This Mission was founded under the most favorable conditions and circumstances, and it prospered from the first. The Mission itself stands upon a slight rolling hill, that gradually slopes to the river and fertile valley, on which were pastured many thousand head of cattle and sheep, in the early days of our fathers.

Father Peyri, with his two thousand and seventy neophytes, delighted in the superb gold and silver of the Chapel as well as the altars.

San Luis Rey, as it remains today in its semi-ruined condition, still holds that majestic art, all imposing and interesting, although each year stamps out more and more of its distinction of work. The belfry tower from which, in the days of the Fathers, eight bells rang out their joyous sound calling the Mission children to service, may still be seen rising high above the long arched corridor. A closer view brings out the perfectly proportioned lines of the dome over the chapel.

Most of the records of the Mission that tell of its maintenance have long ago been lost.

Mission Santa Inez

Mission Santa Inez, the nineteenth Mission founded, was dedicated September 17, 1804, by Father Estevan Tapis. It is located about one hundred and sixty-two miles from Los Angeles, and lies just four miles from the town Santa Inez, which heads a beautiful narrow valley.

The valley lies in the shadows of one of the picturesque Santa Inez mountains, In the opposite direction, it spreads to a beautiful field given up to the growth of grain, bearing much resemblance to the San Fernando valley.

This Mission does not carry the architectural form of design, cherished so much by most of the other Missions, yet Santa Inez belongs to the San Gabriel style of building, having a wall facade on one side of the gable, in which are the openings for the bells. The roof is partly of tiles. Part of the usual long building, with its corridor, adjoins the Church on the right; only ten arches remain.

Beyond are the remains of the Church. The walls of the interior are bare and white, showing the ravages of time. The ceiling is supported with beams, identically the same as San Fernando, while the floors are of large square brick.

The Mission itself does not show marks of replacement with modern materials.

H.C. Ford '86
Santa Ynez

Mission San Rafael Arcangel

Farther up the coast, about fifteen miles north of San Francisco, are two pear trees which mark the site of where once stood the hospital Mission of San Rafael Arcangel. The candle light is extinguished, and only a memory remains. There is not a vestige of a building on the ground, and there has not been for twenty years. It was in existence for about seventy-eight years, having been founded the eighteenth day of December, 1817, by Father Sarria.

The utter disappearance of this Mission is not really so great a loss, as San Rafael played a worthy, but small part in this ancient drama. The buildings and rooms were small and did not compare in any respect with the other Missions, as this establishment was used exclusively for a hospital, the name "San Rafael," signifying "healing of God." About two hundred and fifty neophytes were sent over from San Francisco on account of ill health. These being benefitted, others were often sent from the different Missions.

The history of this Mission is that of any hospital, only it was self-supporting, and even furnished certain supplies to the presidio and soldiers' fort at San Francisco. San Rafael, after the secularization, was sold to A. M. Pico and associates, for eight thousand dollars, but the title was declared void.

SAN RAFAEL
S.A.B

Mission San Francisco Solano de Sonoma

Mission San Francisco Solano de Sonoma, the twenty-first and last Mission, was founded August 25, 1823, by Father Altimira, and is located near the town of Sonoma, the "Valley of the Seven Moons."

This Mission was beautifully situated, overlooking the bay, with a background of purple mountains. But Fate awakened to its calling, and ended the Mission's precious days, almost before it was out of its infancy, and it died of inanition.

The Church building still remains, although an addition of a tower has changed its appearance. Since 1882 it has been used as a storage for hay.

The adjoining building, with its pillared veranda, is almost the same, slight indications of trespassing giving evidence that this part of the Mission was secretly used as a winery.

Comparatively, San Francisco De Solano, considering her short career, has had her share of the converts, and, without a doubt, had this Mission lived it would have equalled, if not surpassed, all but the largest of the Missions.

Thus, verily, we finish our romantic study of the glorious old Missions whose work has become known through modern history as they exist today. In our memory are mingled the thoughts of the tasks and teachings of the Franciscans. It is the veritable end, leaving in reminiscence the surviving monuments that played their part in this drama of a century ago.

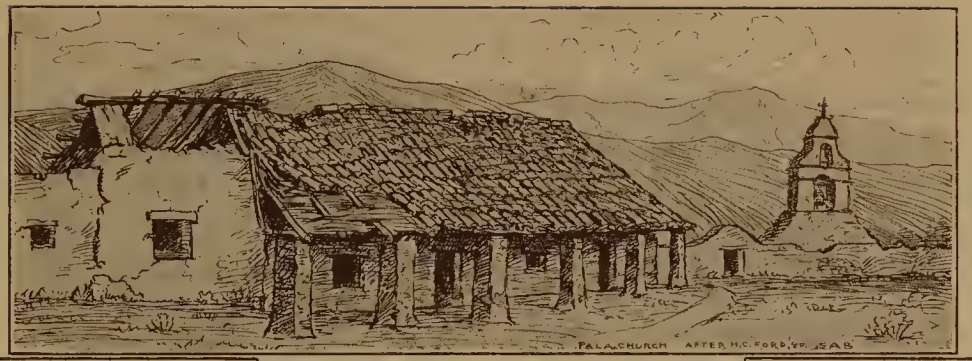
From H.C. Ford, 81. SOLANO MISSION. SONOMA

The Mission Chapels

San Antonio de Pala, is seldom ever seen by a visitor; in fact its name is rarely mentioned among the old Missions, which is a pity for it lies in a beautiful valley surrounded by mountains. This Mission was founded in 1816 as a branch of Mission San Luis Rey, under the name of San Antonio. In the early days it sheltered a resident Padre. Mass is said in the Chapel every other Sunday, the alternative Sunday being reserved for San Juan Capistrano, a priest coming from San Luis Rey for that purpose.

The Plaza Church at Los Angeles was dedicated December 8, 1782. The present structure was dedicated in 1861 from material taken from old buildings. The Church is in a perfect state of preservation, in which there is service held daily. On the walls of the interior there are many noticeable paintings, the work of the Fathers and converts. Visitors are well rewarded for the time spent in making a visit to this old Church, more particularly on an occasion of a festival, which adds Spanish color to the effect. This Church was used by the pueblo and is confused as a Mission Church, the Mission Church for this section of California being at San Gabriel.

In the town of Monterey, six miles from San Carlos Mission, is situated a chapel built by the Padres, which was intended for the people of the town and presidio. It is as handsome, and bears some likeness to the Mission San Carlos. This Church is in charge of the Padres at the Mission.


PALA CHURCH AFTER H.C. FORD '97 SAB

PLAZA CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

SAN CARLOS DE MONTEREY

SAN MIGUEL
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
SANTA BARBARA
SANTA CRUZ

The Miracle Missions

Among the many marvelous events connected with the history of these wonderful missions there are three which stand out distinctly in the light of the miraculous.

1. When Fra. Junipero Serra and Don Gaspar de Portola started from Mexico in 1769 with their expedition to find San Diego and Monterey, a relief ship was promised to follow in one month, which never came. Fra. Serra had been at San Diego over two-thirds of a year. Don Gaspar returned at the end of that time from a fruitless search for Monterey. The combined expedition was in pitiful shape and Don Gaspar ordered every one to be on board the ship at sunset, when they would set sail for Mexico. Fra. Serra protested so hard that one more day was given him. He went upon a brown-robed hill at sunrise and knelt there in prayer all day. All preparations were made for the return by Don Gaspar. The day was almost spent when, just as the sun was sinking, a ship, the San Antonia of La Paz, was sighted rounding Point Loma. Without question it came at that time in answer to Fra Serra's prayer, and the Mission was saved.

2. At San Juan Capistrano, in 1812, when the Padres had gathered under its wonderful dome—which to this day is the admiration, envy and despair of architects—to give blessing and call the recalcitrant Indians to repent of their folly and return to their Mission and their God, threatening them with the dire wrath of God should they fail to obey His precepts, when, upon their refusal, the instant coming of the earthquake which destroyed the main body of the Mission, causing its walls to fall upon the recalcitrant Indians, killing several, but preserving intact the wonderful dome under which the Padres were safely sheltered.

3. Right well has the Hon. Geo. H. Hutton called attention to the Mission D'Assis (Dolores), of San Francisco, as follows:

"It was during 1906 when the earthquake and fire so nearly destroyed San Francisco, as the flames crept up Mission Street and came near to this old Mission, Father P. J. Cummins came out and raising his arms to Heaven in supplication to Almighty God, commanded the flames to stand back and leave the Mission untouched. In answer to his prayer they actually stood back and left the Mission intact while all around it was totally destroyed."

"God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform."

I commend most sincerely this story of the Missions, and I congratulate its author and publisher upon the excellent work. Our community certainly owes a debt of gratitude to the Honorable George H. Hutton, who has allowed the use of his splendid collection of Ford etchings of these Missions, photographs of which appear in this interesting book.

The Missions are sacred places, consecrated to God and sanctified by the secrifices of the sons of St. Francis, who in response to the call of religion left country and friends to give their lives to God in the evangelization of the Indians. The walls crumbling to ruin, the broken arches, the fragments of once beautiful churches and monasteries, are all hallowed by the memories of brave deeds and earnest efforts for religion and civilization. California is proud of the Missions which are indeed the jewels of her crown.

The buildings, architecturally and artistically admired, are the handiwork of the Indians to whom the Padres taught the trades as well as the knowledge of the Living God. The dust of a century is upon them, but the gratitude of the ages ever lingers around them. The worn stones around the Missions tell of feet that never wearied in the service of the Master. These old ruins are the sources of inspiration to all who love unselfishness, religious devotedness and helpfulness to humanity. They are the first chapters in the civilization along the Sunset Sea, and the Ford etchings show them in all their beauty and glory. The Padres have gone, and all that remains of the glory of many of the Missions is a ruin, but the ruins tell the noblest, sweetest story ever written.

Father Junipero Serra is our first citizen, and he and his brethren are heroes of whom all men may be justly proud.

Praise be to those who write the glorious story of such Missions.

Thomas James Conaty

Bishop of Monterey and Los Angeles.

The King's Highway

(*El Camino Real*)

All in the golden weather, forth let us ride today,
You and I together on the King's Highway,
The blue skies above us, and below the shining sea;
There's many a road to travel, but it's this road for me.

It's a long road and sunny, and the fairest in the world—
There are peaks that rise above it in their snowy mantles curled,
And it leads from the mountains through a hedge of chaparral,
Down to the waters where the sea gulls call.

It's a long road and sunny, it's a long road and old,
And the brown padres made it for the flocks of the fold;
They made it for the sandals of the sinner-folk that trod
From the fields in the open to the shelter-house of God.

They made it for the sandals of the sinner-folk of old;
Now the flocks they are scattered and death keeps the fold;
But you and I together we will take the road today,
With the breath in our nostrils, on the King's Highway.

We will take the road together through the morning's golden glow;
And we'll dream of those who trod it in the mellowed long ago;
We will stop at the Missions where the sleeping padres lay,
And we'll bend a knee above them for their soul's sake to pray.

We'll ride through the valleys where the blossom's on the tree,
Through the orchards and the meadows with the bird and the bee,
And we'll take the rising hills where the manzanitas grow,
Past the gray tails of waterfalls where blue violets blow.

Old Conquistadores, O brown priests, and all,
Give us your ghosts for company when night begins to fall;
There's many a road to travel, but it's this road today,
With the breath of God about us on the King's Highway.

—*John Steven McGroarty.*

THE story told by the Mission Play is the story of the bringing and the founding of Christian civilization to the western shores of America. It is the chronicle of that marvelous Franciscan enterprise which, begun in the year 1769, and ended a little more than a half century later, succeeded in converting an entire race from heathenism to Christianity. The heroic self-sacrifice and the martyrdom of the great pioneers who accomplished this result is vividly portrayed in the Mission Play. Nor is this all. The glamour and the romance of old Spain, which was the mother of California and the mother of America, is portrayed in the Mission Play by Franciscan monks, Spanish soldiers and sailors, Indians, picturesque adventurers, singers and dancers who are not only to the manner born, natives of the soil with the blood of Castile in their veins, but who are also actors trained to the highest degree of perfection. Moreover, the Play is equipped with scenery and properties of historical accuracy and is performed in a theatre specially constructed for the purpose. The most eminent critics have declared the Mission Play to be the greatest pageant-drama of this or any other country.

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SAN JOSE
SANTA CRUZ
SAN JUAN BAUTISTA
BAY OF MONTEREY
SAN CARLOS BORROMEO
CARMEL
SOLEDAD
SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA
SAN MIGUEL
Santa Margarita
SAN LUIS OBISPO
PURISIMA CONCEPCION
SANTA YNEZ
SANTA BARBARA
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SAN BUENAVENTURA
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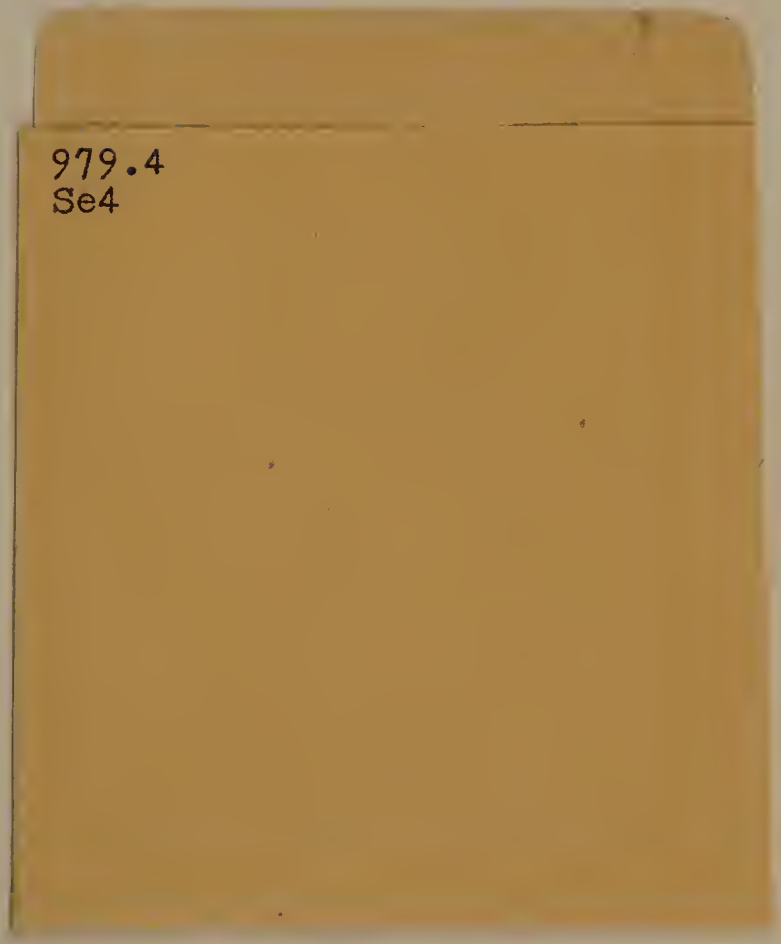

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